



State of Louisiana

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## **Louisiana CPRA Participates in 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NRDA Trustee Council Meeting**

**BATON ROUGE, LA— December 1, 2017 —** Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Executive Director, Michael Ellis, participated in last night's *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Trustee Council Public Meeting in Mobile, Alabama, the second meeting since the historic settlement agreement was approved by the court in April 2016. Louisiana is one of five Gulf States along with the federal government that reached a settlement with BP which totaled \$20.8 billion, of which up to \$8.8 billion will go to natural resource restoration. Louisiana will receive a minimum of \$5 billion to restore the environment for injuries resulting from the spill.

As the state's legislated authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities to develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive protection and restoration Coastal Master Plan for Louisiana, CPRA serves as the lead state Trustee on the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group and also serves on the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Council. "Over the next fifteen years, settlement funds will provide funding to implement some of the state's most complex and costly ecosystem restoration Master Plan projects – one of the largest ecosystem restoration efforts in the world," said Ellis.

Mr. Ellis presented an update on Louisiana's restoration progress and plans, which include an anticipated second restoration plan for \$22 million in Recreational Use funds, to be released for public review and comment in December 2017. "CPRA is committed to transparency and public engagement and looks forward to opportunities to engage the public in restoration planning efforts to restore our coast as a result of the injuries caused by the spill," stated Ellis. "Restoring Louisiana's injured natural resources—such as wetlands, fish and birds—to their pre-spill

conditions is a foremost priority of Louisiana; and addressing recreational uses that were affected by the spill is tremendously important to the people who live, work, and recreate in coastal Louisiana. CPRA continues to work hard and fast to advance the restoration of our coast”, Ellis added.

Through Early Restoration, Louisiana was able to construct three restoration projects: Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (\$13.2 million), Oyster Hatchery and Cultch Placement (\$14.8 million), and Louisiana Outer Coast Project (\$318 million), which restored four barrier islands from Terrebonne Parish to the east bank of Plaquemines Parish.

The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill Trustees finalized a programmatic restoration plan in February 2016 that identifies the types of restoration needed to compensate the public. This plan will guide the development and selection of restoration projects. At the meeting, the Council reported that over the last year, the Trustees have made significant strides in restoration efforts and have coordinated with each other across Trustee Implementation Groups and Restoration Categories.

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*Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the single state entity with authority to develop, articulate, implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal Master Plan of unified vision, to reduce tropical storm surge flood impact, to restore our bountiful natural resources, to build land to protect our nation’s critical energy infrastructure, and to secure Louisiana’s coast now and for future generations.*